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Title: Sights of summer from Lab's earliest days Digitization preserves images from 1940s, features early staff enjoying Los Alamos

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Sights of summer from Lab's earliest days

Digitization preserves images from 1940s, features early staff enjoying Los Alamos

By Madeline Whitacre, [National Security Research Center](#), Historian

Working at the Lab during World War II was serious business, but even these world-changing scientists and staff found time to play during the summer months.

The National Security Research Center (NSRC), which is the Lab's classified library and also houses unclassified artifacts from Los Alamos history, recently rescanned candid footage from two of contributors to the Manhattan Project.

The Manhattan Project was the U.S. government's top-secret effort to create the world's first atomic bombs to help end the war. It was also the beginning of our Lab. In the early 1940s, scientists, engineers, military members and other staff came to Los Alamos in support of the wartime effort. Among them were two employees, Hugh and Marjorie Bradner, a physicist and secretary, respectively, who took home videos of their adventures in New Mexico.

Hugh and Marjorie met at [Dorothy McKibbin](#)'s office in Santa Fe and [were married at McKibbin's home](#) in September 1943. Their videos span much of their time here, before they moved away in April 1946. These films, which are a part of the NSRC's collections, offer a unique look at life in Los Alamos, including summertime activities, such as hiking, swimming, horseback riding, tennis, and more, among other year round leisure activities.

History captured and preserved

This footage has been digitally available for many years, but the scan was low quality. The original color film was recently rescanned by Laura Le, an archivist at the NSRC, and used to create the photos below.

"The NSRC Digital Collections Team digitizes important classified weapons media data that cannot be replicated today," said Nanette Mayfield, team lead of the NSRC Digital Collections. "As the Digital Collections Team digitizes the NSRC classified collections, they occasionally come across unclassified media, such as these home movies."

There's more!

Check out some summertime scenes from the Bradner films below, and watch [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) of the rescanned film. Want to see more stories, photos and films from the Lab's early days? Visit [nsrc.lanl.gov](#). Need research materials in electronic form? We can also help with your digitization projects. Contact us at nsrc@lanl.gov.

Photos



Taking a break in the shadow of a boulder.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bja8eHTPzAGPkNZQa_-SxsqaDXQW5X6s/view?usp=sharing



Hiking in the region near New Mexico can involve a great deal of climbing. Marjorie Bradner and friends hike a steep and rocky trail.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jNoJVwdYlefRqhYkyzZW0amYvDXwk8ue/view?usp=sharing>



Marjorie Bradner enjoys a horseback ride through the mountains.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12v30BHfyccN9JQrimie6M66Mj8aCozG5/view?usp=sharing>



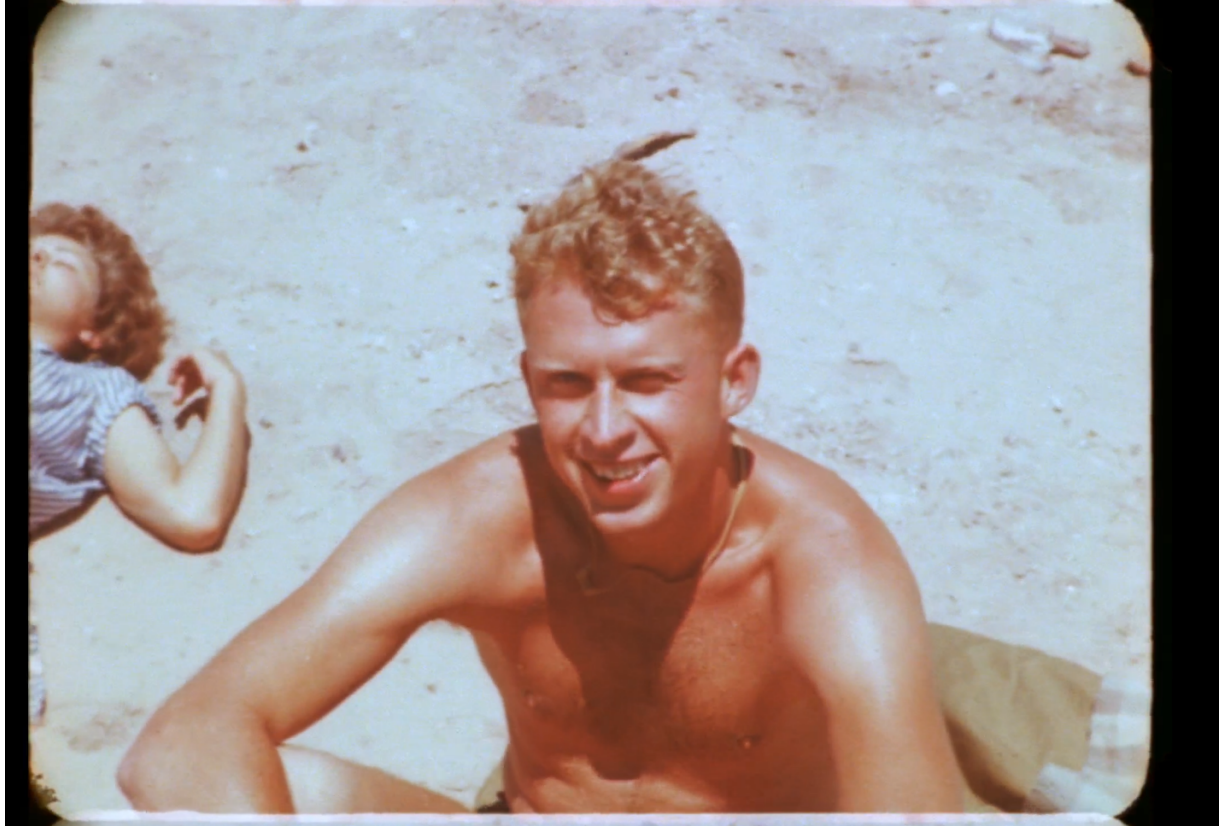
Marjorie Bradner at the lakeshore.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uZfzsXej7H4UA0WtQ--WBX3CUVLMoqlE/view?usp=sharing>



Early Lab staff members Marjorie Bradner, Charlotte Serber and Robert Serber are on horseback enjoying a shady trail.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bSHNH_2z0Trj9Bt03Iqt3IIH71uyKvww/view?usp=sharing



Enjoying the New Mexico summer sun.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16dZ5TrL8bLsDFss3GA6RtXPl5lCuCEla/view?usp=sharing>



Securing supplies for an outing on horseback.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TB17094d1KHvfNKMtnPSbCxx6iUzbEzd/view?usp=sharing>



Getting ready for a party in the sunshine.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dC9XfcF7S2UUiZfx2JVdCsH--FDvlrzt/view?usp=sharing>



Finding petroglyphs during a hike.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sZDUz8PuUobssXy4E3mViRilduPJPVHn/view?usp=sharing>



A 1940s Ford Super Deluxe Coupe, being driven on another summer adventure in New Mexico.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vmsqrcJHnxioMF6mgVmQaCXxqiXyF1W8/view?usp=sharing>



Scanning the New Mexico landscape.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i0w46dFx6w74dk8HzEgrozvM9bVNvv6k/view?usp=sharing>



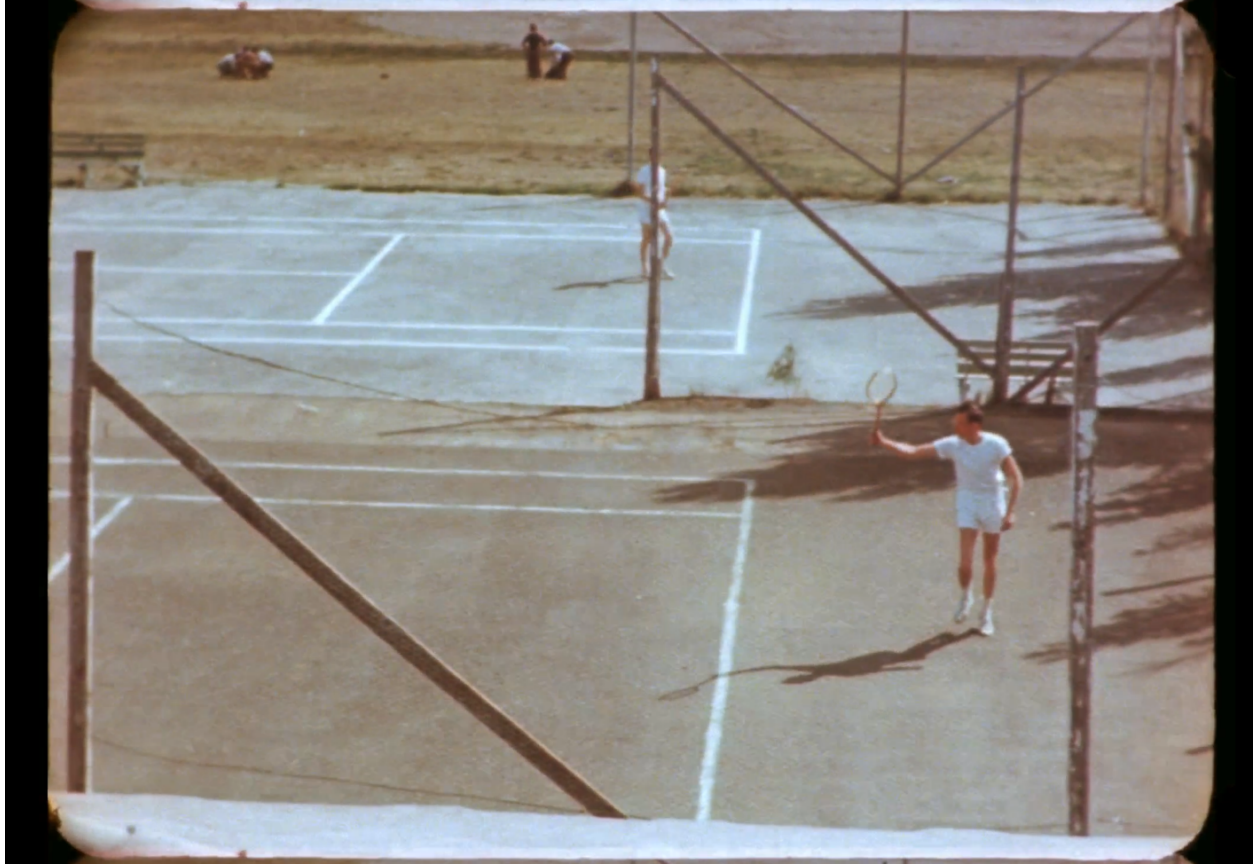
Observing the New Mexico landscapes.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FnE05XLmv-ctUxUZztSsAfwQC8VaKKAI/view?usp=sharing>



Target practice in the wide open spaces of New Mexico.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KGOxAbqyCXHgVBLtMZORzRLZi06gSATJ/view?usp=sharing>



Outdoor sports, such as tennis, were a popular way to spend time during the warm-weather months.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14frULR4UjNUg5uqQ63_y2QcfByAudUCQ/view?usp=sharing



Summer sports are more fun with a bit of competition.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uq9jZH66JBWCExpVbkEbxqfEaFm2O4rD/view?usp=sharing>